MangaBox

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YKS SERVICES LLC / SKY JAPAN, Inc

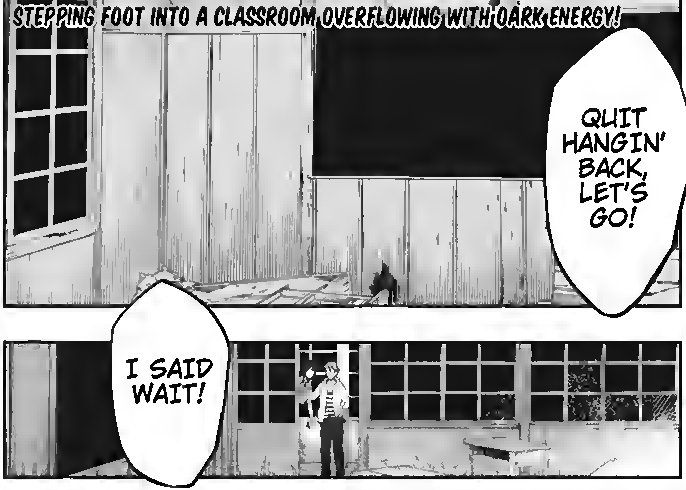
CHAPTER 15: THE CENTER

ZERO

WRITTEN BY
SEIMARU AMAGI

ART BY
HAKUS

ORIGINAL STORY
KOEI TECMO GAMES



THIS STORY IS FICTIONAL, AND COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO REAL PEOPLE, GROUPS, OR EVENTS

Pwinnng
.....
HEY GUYS...
...GLAD YOU'RE ALL OKAY.
...WHA?

THIS'S REALLY BEEN A DISAS-TER, HUH.
BUT NOW I'M FEELIN' BETTER
AFTER ALL, WITH SARA-CHAN'S CAMERA...

...WE'RE AS POWER-FUL AS A HUNDRED GUYS!

I... I CAN'T SPEAK!
T... TAKA-KURA!
....!
DON'T YOU REALIZE WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING...?!
ｼｭｰｼｭｰ

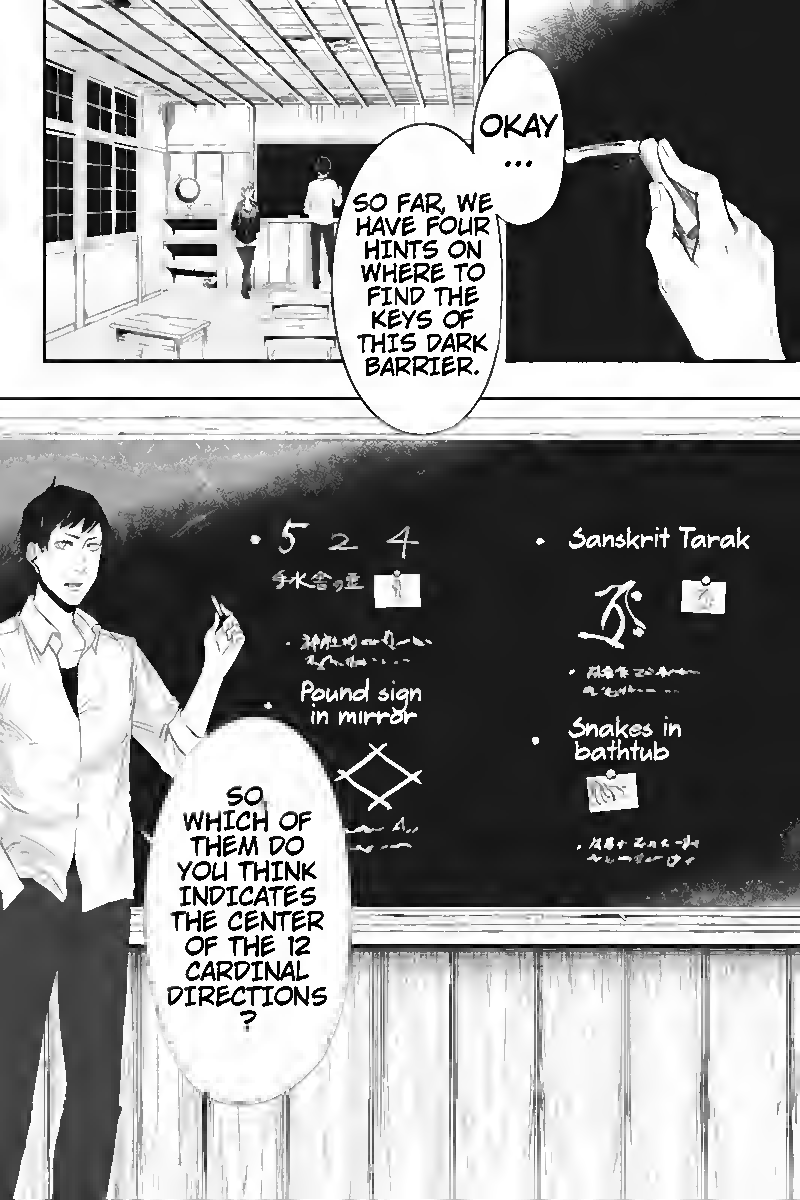
Oooooon
Oooooh
TAKA-KURA-KUN, LOOK!
THERE'S AN EVIL SPIRIT OVER THERE!

OH NO!
WE HAVE TO KILL IT!
IT'LL KILL ALL OF US!
YOU DO IT!
CHOKE IT TO DEATH!
I... I GOT IT!
LEAVE IT TO ME.
I CAN JUST CHOKE IT TO DEATH, RIGHT ?!

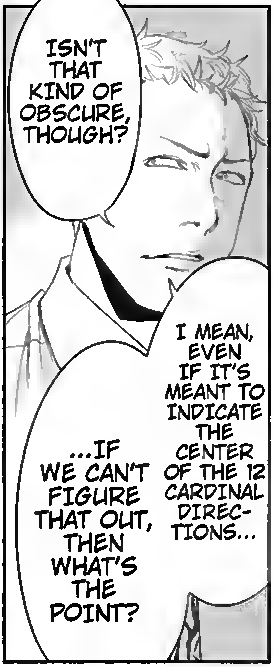
YOU DAMN EVIL SPIRIT!
I'M GONNA GET RID OF YOU!
W... WAIT A MINUTE, TAKA-KURA!
....
IT'S ME! NARUMI AMA-NUMA!

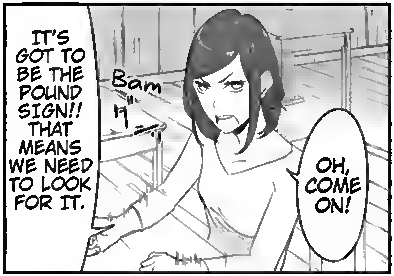
COME TO YOUR SENSES, YOU MORON !!
YHHH D'MN EVIL SPIR'T ....
GUNNA... GUNNA... GET RIDDA YOUUU...

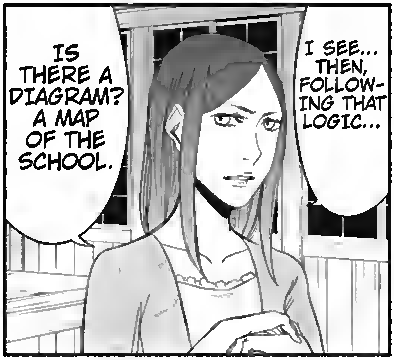
K'LL... YAAA ....
WANNA ...
NO!
N...
HE'S COM-PLETELY OUT OF IT!
Pant
Pant
SIP
HE... HE'S GONNA KILL ME...!!
I... I CAN'T MOVE!


OKAY ...
SO FAR, WE HAVE FOUR HINTS ON WHERE TO FIND THE KEYS OF THIS DARK BARRIER.
• 5 2 4
• Pound sign in mirror
• Sanskrit Tarak
• Snakes in bathtub
SO WHICH OF THEM DO YOU THINK INDICATES THE CENTER OF THE 12 CARDINAL DIRECTIONS ?

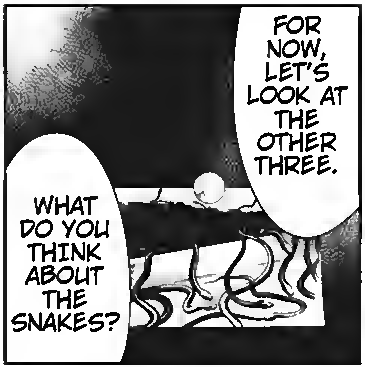
HMM... THE POUND SIGN, MAYBE ...
LOOK, IT'S KIND OF CENTERY, RIGHT?
AH.
THAT MIGHT BE IT.
IT PROBABLY IS... LOOK, THAT SQUARE IS THE CENTER, RIGHT?

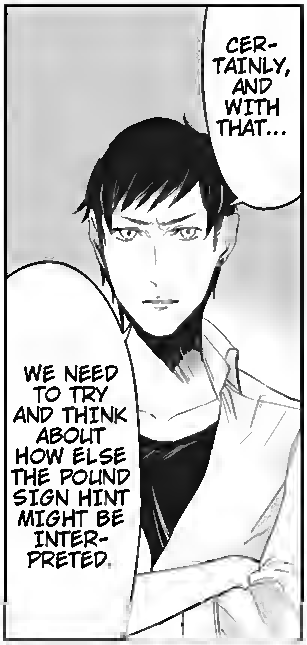

ISN'T THAT KIND OF OBSCURE, THOUGH?
I MEAN, EVEN IF IT'S MEANT TO INDICATE THE CENTER OF THE 12 CARDINAL DIRECTIONS...
...IF WE CAN'T FIGURE THAT OUT, THEN WHAT'S THE POINT?

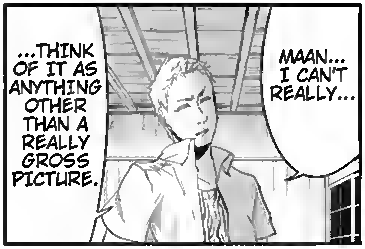

IT'S GOT TO BE THE POUND SIGN!! THAT MEANS WE NEED TO LOOK FOR IT.
Bam
OH, COME ON!

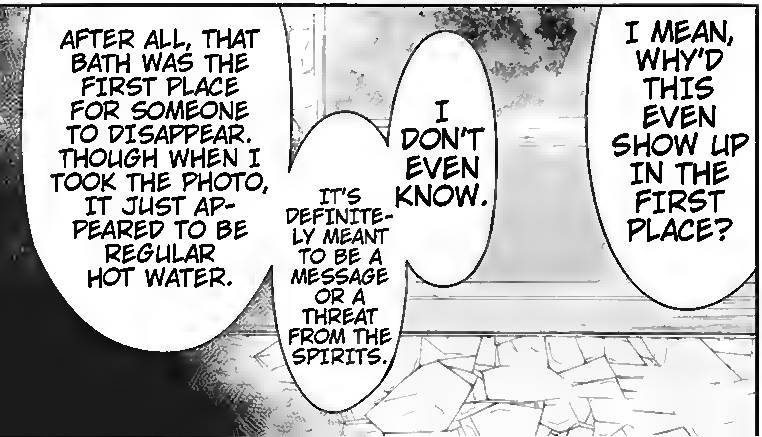

I SEE... THEN, FOLLOWING THAT LOGIC...
IS THERE A DIAGRAM? A MAP OF THE SCHOOL.

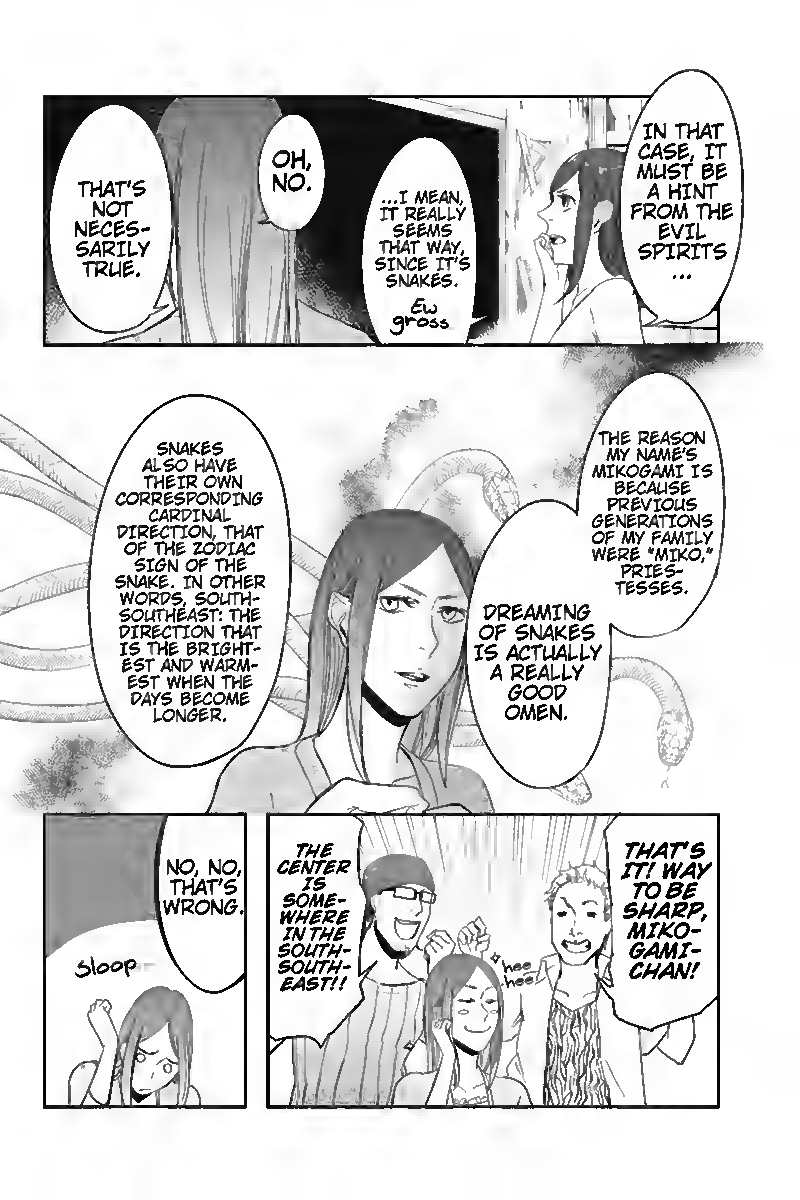
SARA, YOU GRADUATED FROM HERE. DO YOU KNOW?
IS THERE SOMETHING LIKE A POUND SIGN WE COULD USE, SOMEWHERE?
OF COURSE THERE IS.
REALLY? THEN LET'S GO THAT WAY.
BUT I DON'T THINK THAT A GHOST...
...COULD TELL US SOMETHING SO STRAIGHTFORWARDLY...
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THIS BARRIER IS OVERWHELMINGLY DOMINATED BY THE EVIL SPIRITS AND THE NECROMANCER...
SO I THINK JUST OPENLY LENDING US A HAND...
...WOULD END UP WITH THEM BEING CRUSHED IN SOME SENSE.


FOR NOW, LET'S LOOK AT THE OTHER THREE.
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE SNAKES?


CER-TAINLY, AND WITH THAT...
WE NEED TO TRY AND THINK ABOUT HOW ELSE THE POUND SIGN HINT MIGHT BE INTER-PRETED.


MAAN... I CAN'T REALLY...
...THINK OF IT AS ANYTHING OTHER THAN A REALLY GROSS PICTURE.


I MEAN, WHY'D THIS EVEN SHOW UP IN THE FIRST PLACE?
I DON'T EVEN KNOW.
IT'S DEFINITE-LY MEANT TO BE A MESSAGE OR A THREAT FROM THE SPIRITS.
AFTER ALL, THAT BATH WAS THE FIRST PLACE FOR SOMEONE TO DISAPPEAR. THOUGH WHEN I TOOK THE PHOTO, IT JUST AP-PEARED TO BE REGULAR HOT WATER.


IN THAT CASE, IT MUST BE A HINT FROM THE EVIL SPIRITS ...
...I MEAN, IT REALLY SEEMS THAT WAY, SINCE IT'S SNAKES.
Ew gross
OH, NO.
THAT'S NOT NECES-SARILY TRUE.
THE REASON MY NAME'S MIKOGAMI IS BECAUSE PREVIOUS GENERATIONS OF MY FAMILY WERE "MIKO," PRIES-TESSES.
DREAMING OF SNAKES IS ACTUALLY A REALLY GOOD OMEN.
SNAKES ALSO HAVE THEIR OWN CORRESPONDING CARDINAL DIRECTION, THAT OF THE ZODIAC SIGN OF THE SNAKE. IN OTHER WORDS, SOUTH-SOUTHEAST: THE DIRECTION THAT IS THE BRIGHT-EST AND WARM-EST WHEN THE DAYS BECOME LONGER.
THAT'S IT! WAY TO BE SHARP, MIKO-GAMI-CHAN!
hee hee
THE CENTER IS SOME-WHERE IN THE SOUTH-SOUTH-EAST!!
NO, NO, THAT'S WRONG.
sloop

IN THAT CASE, THERE'S JUST ONE LEFT.
THOSE NUMBERS MUST HAVE SOME MEANING TOWARD FINDING THE CENTER OF THE BUILDING...
SOUTH-SOUTH-EAST IS A SIMILAR DIRECTION CLUE, LIKE THE SANK-SRIT TARAK.
IT'S NOT A HINT FOR THE ACTUAL CENTER...
WHICH MEANS WHEN WE FIND THE CENTER OF THAT HINT, WE'LL PROBABLY BE ABLE TO FIND A HIDDEN KEY.
5 2 4
Pound sign in mirror
....
5, 2, 4... WHAT OTHER MEANING COULD THOSE NUMBERS HAVE...?
OHHH? WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL OF YOU? ARE WE TAKING A CLASS? HA HA HA.

N... NUE-SAN?
Whisper
IS HE DRUNK? IN THIS CRAPPY SITU-ATION?
THAT'S THE SAME GUY WHO USED TO BE SO DOWN, RIGHT?
ISN'T HE WAY TOO EXCITED?
Whisper

AWW, DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT!
YOU'RE ALL SO DEPRES-SING!
HEE HEE!
....
TO BE CONTINUED...